

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Supreme Court rules in favor of Romulus landowners

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Ed Hatchcock won a major victory in court last week. But the Romulus business owner wonders if the cost was worth the 6-year battle.

In a landmark decision, the Michigan Supreme Court last week overturned the 1981 Poletown decision, which gave Michigan governments the power to use eminent domain laws to take property for development projects without the consent of landowners.

At the heart of the case was Hatchcock, a member of the Romulus Planning Commission and the owner of Gem Products.

Hatchcock's business is located on Vining Road, wedged between Eureka and Pennsylvania roads. According to Hatchcock, more than 6 years ago, Wayne County officials came to him and offered to buy his land.

"They came and offered me a third of what this land is worth," said Hatchcock. "And on top of that, this is my business. It has taken years to get to where I am now."

Gem Products has been located in the same spot since 1983, when Hatchcock first opened his business.

Wayne County attempted to acquire the land for the Pinnacle Aeropark project in Romulus and a small portion of Huron Township. The project would have created 30,000 jobs and generated \$350 million a year in taxes, according to Wayne County officials.

"When they first came in here looking to buy the land, some people thought it was a good deal and did it," he said. "But others of us decided that it wasn't worth it and said 'no' and that is when the problems began."

More than 200 landowners occupied the 1,300-acre site, which Wayne County was trying to purchase to position the Pinnacle project.

The county relied on the 1981 Poletown decision to con-

demn the property of the landowners who would not sell.

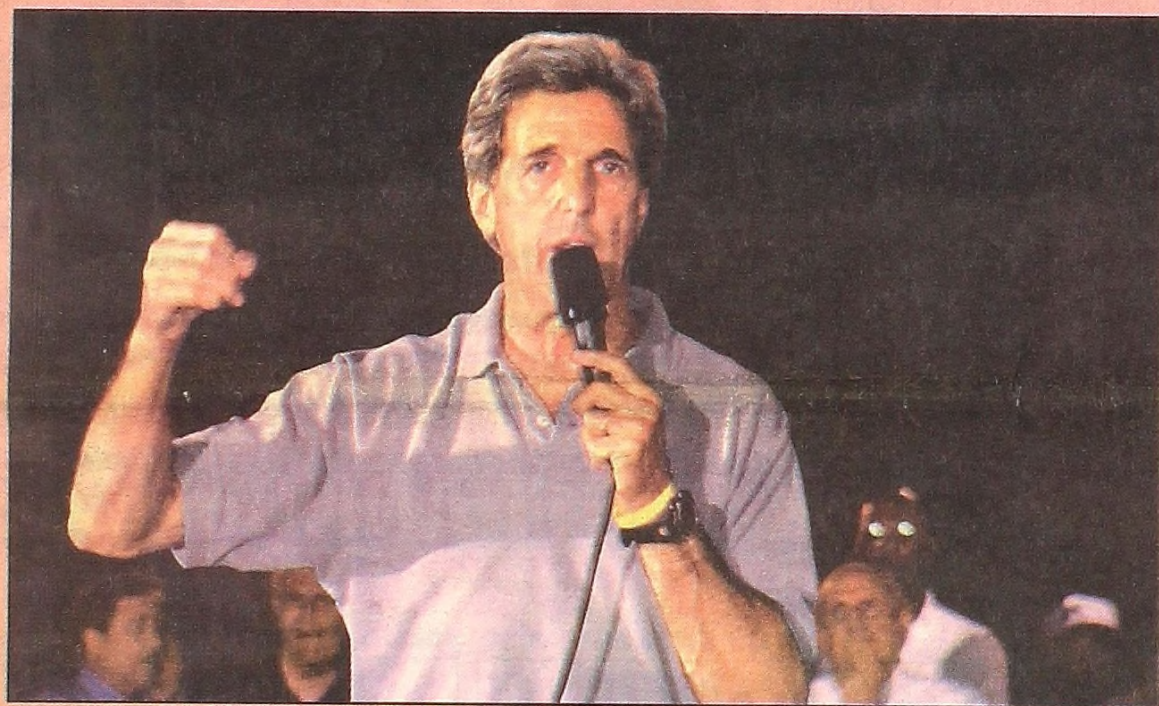
In the case, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that Michigan governments had the right to condemn land that they could use to provide economic stimulus through the creation of jobs, after the City of Detroit wanted to use land located in the Poletown neighborhood for a General Motors plant.

"In other words, if the county decided that they thought my land could be used in a better way, they had the right to come in and condemn it without my consent," said Hatchcock. "I am sorry, but I know better than that. There was no way I was going to let them come in and take my land away from me."

The 200 landowners in the area have since dwindled to five holdouts.

In 2001, the county sued the landowners who refused to

See Court, page 3



'Gear'ing up for election

Last Sunday, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, made a stop at Taylor Heritage Park on his two-week coast-to-coast tour of battleground states following the Democratic National Convention. Romulus officials showed their support for Kerry, including Mayor pro-tem Randolph Gear, pictured with U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow. Gear addressed the crowd urging them to remember the soldiers who are still fighting in Iraq. Gear recently returned home after 8 months of active duty in Indiana training soldiers on their way to the war.



Secretary of state office slated to close Aug. 13

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Residents will no longer be able to make a quick run to the secretary of state office located on Goddard Road in downtown Romulus.

The office is one of 18 that are slated to close to improve customer service.

The announcement that was made in late April by Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land angered many Romulus residents, including Mayor Alan Lambert.

"This is a sad day for Romulus residents and all of our surrounding communities for that matter," said Lambert. "Our office is very conveniently located in the downtown and that makes it easy to get to, even from the freeway."

Lambert said that he and other city officials tried to convince Land's office to keep the Romulus location open. City Council members approved a resolution that was sent to Romulus state representatives expressing their concern. Lambert went to Lansing to try and keep the Romulus location open, but all efforts failed.

"We did everything we could to keep this office open, but they just wouldn't listen," said Lambert.

Romulus residents will have to drive to the newly remodeled Belleville office located at 795 Sumpter Road after the Romulus office closes Aug. 13. The Belleville office has become one of 22 newly designed PLUS offices in the Metro Detroit area.

The PLUS office will offer additional full-time staff, extended 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday hours and will be the first to offer customers the option of paying by credit or debit card for a minimal fee, according to Land's office.

Land said in April that the move to fewer offices was aimed to service customers faster and more efficiently in today's fast paced lifestyle, but Lambert said he doesn't see that as the case for Romulus residents.

"It is a trek for us to have to go out to Belleville to get to the closest secretary of state office," he said. "You have to go down all those different roads. It is just sad for the residents of Romulus."

The staff from the Romulus location will be moving to the Belleville PLUS office, so there will be some familiar faces behind the counter, said Lambert.

The secretary of state will also be adding

five additional SUPER offices in Flint, Grand Rapids, Clinton Township, Detroit and Livonia. These centers will be equipped to handle larger volumes of business, as well as offer a multitude of additional services such as Saturday hours, self-service stations that give eligible customers the option of renewing their vehicle registrations by credit or debit card, mechanic testing, instant titles and driver assessment and appeals.

Hours at the new office will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

It is a trek for us to have to go out to Belleville to get to the closest secretary of state office.

Magna moves closer to breaking ground on racetrack

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) Michigan Downs project is now one step closer to construction in Romulus following city council approval of the vacation of two roads that run through the proposed site Monday night.

The request to vacate both Venoy and Raftary roads between Smith and Wick roads

was originally denied last October at the recommendation of the city planner.

According to city documents, the recommendation for denial was given to allow MEC time to submit a "comprehensive plan for the property surrounding the right-of-ways" in the given area.

The original plans called for the vacation of Venoy Road and the utilization of Raftary Road as a "ring road" that would run

throughout the 212 acre site.

However, the planner's report said this plan was not consistent with the goals and objectives of the master plan.

Since that time, MEC has submitted a detailed plan to the city that includes the road right-of-ways that caused the delays last year and the complete vacation of Raftary Road.

See Racetrack, page 3

Surplus food distribution set in Westland

Scott Spielman
Editor

Westland residents in need will be able to get some assistance on Aug. 13.

That's when the city will distribute surplus federal food at the Dorsey Community Center, according to city officials.

Residents north of Michigan Avenue will be able to pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day, according to Brenda Thies, who oversees the program for the Housing and Community Development Department for the City of Westland.

The program takes place once a month, she said. In August, they will distribute corn, pudding, diced tomatoes and tuna.

The food is distributed through the former The

The program takes place once a month, she said. In August, they will distribute corn, pudding, diced tomatoes and tuna.

Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), but is now distributed through Wayne County Office of Nutritional Services.

"It's actually a Wayne County program," she said. "They have sites in almost every city."

It is income dependent and all food allocations, distribution sites and dates of distribution are determined by the county office, she said.

To qualify, the residents must meet the following guide-

lines: 130 percent of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines for those less than 60 years old and 160 percent of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines for those 60 years of age and older.

"If someone comes in and they don't have an income verification but they're needy and they can prove they live in Westland, we can help them that day," Thies said.

Surplus commodities are distributed to residents living south of Michigan Avenue on the third Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church at 30055 Annapolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt roads.

Qualified residents of Taylor Towers may pick up commodities at the building and should call the building manager for their day of distribution.

For further information, call the Commodities Hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Annual school supply drive under way

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

With the start of school just around the corner, school supplies will be in high demand by students everywhere.

However, not every family can afford the latest and greatest in school supplies and some can't even afford the basic necessities. That's why the Plymouth Community United Way launched the Second Annual Supply Drive this week.

"People in the community said there was need for school supplies for disadvantaged children," said Marie Marrow, president of the

Plymouth Community United Way. "Last year was a trial year for it and it's really expanded quite a bit."

The drive started at the Plymouth Community Arts Council "Music in the Park" Home-town Kids Concert sponsored by New Liberty

Bank yesterday and will continue during the concert season.

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring new, unused school supplies to the concerts. Volunteers will be on hand at Kellogg Park to accept them and distribute information regarding the drive that runs through September.

Drop off boxes will also be located throughout the Plymouth and Canton communities during the 2-month period at: Plymouth District Library, Bank One (Sheldon Road), Plymouth Salvation Army, Skatin' Station, Plymouth Art Council, Wiltse's Pharmacy, Comerica Bank (Ann Arbor Road locations), Standard

Federal Bank (Ann Arbor Road and Beck Road locations), Plymouth Post Office (Beck Road), Community Financial Credit Union, Plymouth Cultural Center, Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Plymouth Community Council on Aging, National City Bank, Finlan Insurance Agency, and Jimmy Johns Gourmet Sandwiches.

Marrow said the supplies would be distributed to students from low-income families this school year. Ideas for donations include new, unused, items such as pencils, crayons, pens, notebooks, erasers and any other supplies that students may need for the year.

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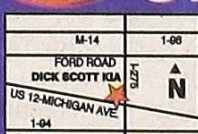
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Ed Hatchcock, owner of Gem Products, located on Vining Road, is no longer able to access his business from Eureka Road after Wayne County officials closed Vining Road from Eureka Road to the beginning of his driveway. Hatchcock, also a 12-year member of the Romulus Planning Commission refused to sell his land to the county more than 6 years ago. The Michigan Supreme Court ruled in his favor last week.

Court

FROM PAGE 1

sell their property and both the circuit and appellate court ruled in the county's favor. But the landowners refused to back down and pushed it to the Michigan Supreme Court, where they argued that the state Constitution places limits on governments utilizing the eminent domain laws.

Hatchcock said that after he and the other four defendants made it clear they were not going to back down, the county got serious trying to give them every reason to give up.

For example, Hatchcock's business on Vining Road was in a prime location for his business needs.

"It was great, because I am a cabinet maker," he said. "I was able to make sawdust and not bother my neighbors, but at the same time I was right off of Eureka Road, so people were able to access my business easily. But not anymore."

The county came in and cut

off Vining Road from the Eureka Road entrance, so now those interested in doing business with Hatchcock are forced to go all the way around and enter from Pennsylvania Road.

"They literally cut the road off right at my driveway," said Hatchcock. "Now, no one can get down the road. It has really been a pain."

The court ruling may have further implications that just the land that was in dispute in Romulus. After the 1981 decision, other states followed the lead of the Michigan courts and Hatchcock said he has a feeling that could happen again.

"After the '81 decision all of these states came in and created the same law," he said. "Since that time they have been using the Poletown decision as a precedent when they want to come in take over property by condemning it. Now they won't be able to do that anymore."

But in the end of this 6-year battle, Hatchcock said he doesn't really feel like he has won anything.

"What have I won?" he asked. "Don't think this whole thing has-

n't hurt my business. There is nothing around me at all. This street used to be lined with nice homes, now it is just tall weeds. Truthfully, I feel like I have lost a lot of opportunities that won't be showing themselves again."

Hatchcock said he had interest from a cellular company that wanted to build a tower on his land, but because the county had condemned the property he wasn't able to do business with them.

"This whole project has cost so many people so much money," he said. "And was it really worth all this? They kept saying that they were going to provide all of these jobs, but they would have taken jobs away from people like the guys who work for me."

Hatchcock is proud that he fought back, because he knew that what the county was doing wasn't right.

"We elect and empower these people in our government," he said. "But then once they are there some of them give themselves more power than they deserve. Most people are afraid of the legal system, but people need to realize that it is there for our protection."

Racetrack

FROM PAGE 1

According to the city, the current plans propose an intercon-

nected pedestrian system and have integrated the use of wide boulevards and greater open space and landscaping required by the current and draft master plans.

Magna representatives are

scheduled to appear before the planning commission at a special meeting tonight to request approval on the final site plan. If approved, Magna will then go before the city council for approval of the final plan.

Mentoring program earns high marks

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The \$112,000 cooperative teacher mentoring grant between the Romulus schools and Western Michigan University (WMU) has officially come to an end, but a successful one according to Romulus school officials.

The program brought students from WMU into the Romulus schools where more than 80 Romulus teachers served as mentors.

"We have gained a lot of information about the mentor-mentee relationship," said Dr. Cynthia Halderson, professor of education at WMU. "We intend to incorporate this knowledge into our educational course offering at WMU in the future."

Halderson teamed up with another WMU professor, Dr. Mark Jennes, to super-

vise the program in Romulus.

"The mentor-mentee relationship should be like an effective teacher in-service workshop where the strengths, weaknesses and possible improvements are continuously discussed," said Jennes. "This process was very important because frustration can easily set in when things are not working correctly and that nationally, up to 50 percent of teachers leave the profession within the first 5 years."

Halderson said she was very pleased with the results of the joint program.

"This showed us that we are on the right track and that we attained excellent results from the cooperative settings we established in the program," she said. "The grant additionally helped the Romulus schools meet the State of Michigan requirement for new teacher mentoring during the first 3 years of teaching."



Dr. Cynthia Halderson, left, a professor in the education department at Western Michigan University, Kara Pluff, a first grade teacher at Cory Elementary School and Cory principal Phyllis Adkins all took part in the cooperative mentoring program.

Residents gear up for wheelfest celebration

Scott Spielman
Editor

There are only 3 weeks before the Wayne Wheelfest celebration gets under way at Goudy Park, and the event is already filling up.

Jeff Rutter, assistant director of the Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, said the majority of the planning of the annual festival is already in place, and officials are merely finalizing the details.

"We've got some great entertainment lined up and we're looking forward to a great festival," he said.

The Wheelfest takes place from Aug. 26-29.

The main stage will feature entertainment that follows the theme of last year, that is: tribute bands, according to Rick Turk, a long-time volunteer with the Wayne Wheelfest Committee. Several years ago, the city attracted to-flight entertainment to the festival, he said. Budget cuts caused a reduction in the entertainment budget for the festival, though, which meant appearances from Mitch Ryder, Mickey Thomas and Starship and Herman's Hermits - all Wheelfest entertainers in the past - probably wouldn't be feasible.

But entertainment is a main component of the festival, Turk said - it's the part of the planning that committee members address first.

"We try not to do repeats. We try to get varied acts," he said. "We want to get some name recognition - something people would definitely recognize - and do more than just have local bands play cover songs."

The result was the tribute concept, which debuted last year and was very successful. This year, festival goers will find Karen Durant, a diva impressionist who covers songs by Donna Summer, The Supremes and Tina Turner on Thursday night. Friday night will feature Fabulous Motown, a Motown review band, according to Turk.

Saturday night will be a rock-

themed night with a California band providing covers of David Bowie and Led Zepagain, a Led Zeppelin tribute band.

Sunday, Ricky Smith, a local musician, will perform country songs.

"I think we've got a pretty good card," Turk said. "We'll have some good education this year."

There will be entertainment going on virtually non-stop on the main stage in Goudy Park, too. In addition to demonstrations by groups like Kicks Karate, the winners of the Wheelfest Star Search will perform throughout the 4-day event.

A carnival from Mid-America shows, booths from community groups, a pet show, a car show and food vendors will complete the lineup for the weekend.

The festival has changed slightly since it moved to Goudy Park from the formerly vacant piece of land where the library is now located. It's become more revenue-oriented, but that's because of the realities of putting on a major event in current economic times, according to Turk.

The Wheelfest does receive funds from the city, and other revenue comes in from the carnival, which contributes a portion of sales.

"We're not at a break-even point yet, but we are generating a lot more revenue," Turk said.

Other than the carnival and the food, though, everything is free at the festival. And Turk said the carnival will operate under an armband situation during specific times throughout the weekend, because the rides can be pricey.

"There are a lot of things going on all day long," he said. "There are a lot of things to do without spending a lot of money."

The festival is gaining more notoriety, too. The Friday night parade is attracting more participants and the booths themselves are filling up more quickly.

"It's nice. It's one of the rewards for getting involved," said Turk. "It all comes to a point where people want to be a part of it."

Belleville wins top Wayne County recycling score

Andrea King
Staff Writer

For the third consecutive year, the City of Belleville is rated tops in Wayne County for recycling efforts.

According to Mayor Tom Fielder, every year Wayne County releases a listing of municipal recycling and compost rates. The rating determines the amount of trash generated, factors in the amount recycled and then assesses a percentage as the rating. Of the 43 communities that the county serves, Fielder said that his community came in first with 28.7 percent, replacing the past number one recycler—Grosse Pointe Park.

"Three years ago Belleville came in first, so ever since then I have been keeping track of it, hoping to get the first place again," he said. "We don't get an award or special recognition for it. It's just something that we do on our own, something that we are very proud of."

Other communities in Wayne County that did not score as high as Belleville did show valiant efforts. Both the City of Plymouth (19.9 percent) and the City of Northville (15.3 percent) had higher rates with the amount of tons generated. The lower rates came

from Wayne and Westland. Wayne received a 1.5 percent, while Westland received a .3 percent.

Fielder said that he is not sure how they hold the title as top recyclers in Wayne County, but he suspects that it is due to the size of the community and that many of the residents are older.

"The people that live here take pride in being a good citizen and have a good understanding of how important recycling is," he said. "Most of our residents are older, more stable individuals who are responsible about these kind of things."

In order to maintain the number one spot, Belleville will continue to promote recycling aware-

ness by passing on the word in a far-ranging brochure detailing the city refuse, recycling and yard waste services. The city contractor—Abcor Enterprises—collects newspapers, phone books, glass bottles, cardboard, plastic bottles and metal food and beverage cans in order to bring them to the Ann Arbor Materials Recovery Facility to make new items.

"We do such an extensive brochure of the program to get people more aware of it, and they are," said Fielder. "There are many good things associated with recycling. We want to keep going at this rate because it is something that is very positive for the city."



Best 'friends'

Marcy and Pete LaFramboise celebrated the official opening of their animal shelter in Belleville, The Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue (FMAR), last week when they cut the ribbon to their facility. FMAR is a non-profit organization committed to protecting animals and residents by promoting a safe and healthy environment, according to LaFramboise. The shelter operates a 'no kill' animal rescue providing necessary medical attention, shelter, spay and neuter services, vaccinations and adoption services. They are currently providing a low-cost spay/neuter program in hopes of decreasing the overpopulation of animals in the community.

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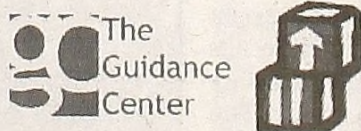


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OBITUARIES

WHITE, Betty J.
Betty J. White, 74, of Belleville, died July 27.
Among her survivors are her husband, Leonard; children, Lawrence R. (Brenda) Martin, Charlotte (Mark) Blair, Rhonda (Andy) Campbell, Tina Lehner and Robert (Tabetha) Martin; a step-son, James (Melba) White, and her grandchildren.
Funeral services were at St. Stephen Catholic Church in New Boston.
Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.
Arrangements were entrusted to the Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Huron Township.

MONKS, Virginia M.
Virginia M. Monks, 81, of Belleville, died July 26.
Among her survivors are her children, Susan (Tommy) Witten of Canton Township and John (Wanda) Monks of Belleville; sisters, Dorothy (Andrew) Tonkavich of Dearborn and Jean Sullens of Fountain Hills, AZ.; five grandchildren; three nephews, two nieces, and a great-grandchild.

Mrs. Monks was a 1942 graduate of Belleville High School.
Prior to her retirement, Mrs. Monks was employed with the Belleville Police Department in several capacities, including police dispatcher.
Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Michael Bryan of First Baptist Church of Plymouth officiating.
Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

THOMAS, Thomas E. "Tommy"
Thomas E. Thomas, 31, of Monroe, formerly of Wayne, died recently.
Among his survivors are his wife, Lisa; his father, William Thomas; a brother, Michael Thomas; sisters, Christina and Sarah, and his grandparents Ernie and Agnes Leasure.
Funeral services were at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home with the Rev. David Dahlbergh officiating.
Interment was at Parkview Memorial Park in Livonia.

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT BID

Bids for the Food Management Service and the District Cafeteria Operations will be received by the-

Romulus Community Schools
36540 Grant Road
Romulus, Michigan 48174

Bids are to be summated to William Routhier in a sealed envelope marked "Food Service Management Bid"

Bids are due August 19, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. Awards shall be made to qualified bidder whose bid is responsive to this solicitation. Bidder or their authorized representation are expected to fully inform themselves as the conditions, requirements and specifications before submitting bids. Failure to do so will be at the bidders own risk and he/she can not secure relief on the plea or error.

The Romulus Community Schools reserve the right to reject any or all bids if they are deemed not to be in the best interests of the School District.

Publish: August 5, 2004

Charter Township of Van Buren
BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR
RECREATIONAL TRAILS CONSTRUCTION AND
RELATED SERVICES

The Charter Township of Van Buren will be accepting sealed bids for recreational trails construction and related services. The project entails construction of a recreational trail and site amenities at the Visteon Village Site off of Ecorse Road. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "Visteon Recreational Trails" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 AM EST on Thursday, August 12, 2004 and will be publicly opened following the deadline.

Specifications and plans may be obtained from the Clerk's Office during normal business hours starting July 8, 2004. The previously advertised bid date of August 2, 2004 has been cancelled. This project is partially funded with a federal grant and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation is required. For more information you may call (734) 699-8913.

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township also reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid. The Charter Township of Van Buren is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Publish: August 5, 2004

1954 PA 188 Proceedings
Notice of Public Hearing on the Special
Assessment Roll for Walden Woods 3 Subdivision
Street Lighting Assessment District
Charter Township of Van Buren
Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VANBUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE VILLAGE PLACE ESTATES CONDOMINIUMS AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Walden Woods 3 Subdivision Street Lighting Assessment District benefited by the street lighting project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the construction of the street lighting and work incidental thereto with the aforesaid Walden Woods 3 Subdivision Street Lighting Assessment District as more particularly shown on the plans by the DTE Energy Company on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, which assessment is in the total of \$3,358.52 / year.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said District, will be equal and the same for each and every lot in the Special Assessment District for the Walden Woods 3 Subdivision Street Lighting District.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on August 17, 2004 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

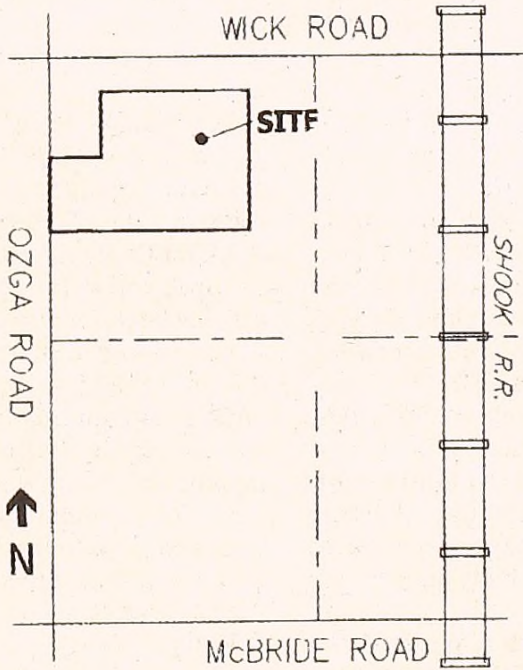
Joannie D. Payne
Township Clerk

Publish: August 5, 2004

CITY OF ROMULUS
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 207 of 1921, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 16, 2004, for the purpose of considering a request to permit a cul-de-sac road length in excess of 900 feet. The Subdivision Regulations only permit a maximum road length no greater than 600 feet. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

The petitioner desires to construct a 20 lot single-family residential development on 8.4+acres with a cul-de-sac length in excess of 900 feet. The development is located on the east side of Ozga Road west of Elmer Johnson Park, DP# 82-80-066-99-0033-000. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, August 16, 2004, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: August 5, 2004

Communities continue to battle West Nile virus

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Just when it appeared to be safe to put away the mosquito repellants, think again. Summer may be winding down, but the mosquitoes are not, and neither is the fear of the West Nile Virus. That's why Wayne County communities are taking the necessary precautions in an effort to keep mosquito populations down, especially during the unconventional Michigan weather.

With the continued on-again, off-again rain in the area, determining the prevalence of mosquitoes infected with the West Nile virus is difficult at best. According to Dan Swallow, environmental director for Van Buren Township, however, residents may be safer than previously estimated.

"From the reports and studies that I have read, mosquitoes that carry West Nile prefer drier weather," he said. "However, the rain may cause more mosquitoes, but that doesn't necessarily mean that they are carrying the virus."

In Van Buren Township, officials provide residents with free mosquito dunks, which are made of the naturally occurring bacterium

Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis (BTI) that kills mosquito larvae. The dunks are placed in stagnant water in the homeowner's property. They control mosquito larvae for up to 30 days. It is not effective for large bodies of water, said Swallow.

"We now require that all stormwater detention ponds have aerators or fountains to keep the breeding down by circulating the water," he said.

The breeding ground for mosquitoes—detention ponds—are located in areas that deal with rain and other overflow when the storm system becomes overwhelmed.

According to Jim Gallogy, director of the Northville Department of Public Works, after every rain, area storm basins retain water, which ultimately becomes stagnant and a breeding ground for the pests.

"This is an out-of sight, out-of-mind issue," he said. "It's a problem most people don't even know exists, but it (larvicide briquettes) takes care of it."

For the second year, the City of Northville will deposit methoprene larvicide briquettes into city storm water catch basins as a means of controlling the mosquito population. While the community did investigate the possibility of larviciding surface waters, such as the Middle Rouge River, and mosquito control through isolated or community-wide spraying, Gallogy said that they ultimately decided against those measures for several reasons, including liability, environmental impact and cost.

Canton Township will also treat detention ponds with (BTI), according to Township Engineer Tom Casari. They treat ponds that service private neighborhoods at the request of the neighborhood association.

Since Plymouth Township does not have catch basins, and all the ponds in the township are circulating, there isn't much stagnant water for the township to worry about, according to James Anulewicz, director of public services for Plymouth Township.

"There is a general practice in place for township workers to look for any standing water and correct the problem," he said. "We're basically taking the same approach as last year, stressing prevention by way of pamphlets, tips and newsletters."

The township does not provide larvicide briquettes to residents, but Anulewicz said that Wayne County might provide some in the future. For now, Plymouth Township is pointing residents to places like Home Depot for larvicide.

West Nile community findings

The West Nile Virus was first seen in the U.S. in 1999 in New York City. It was first detected in Michigan in 2001.

So far this season, there is only one known human case of West Nile virus in Kalamazoo. But recently, state results have proven that another has been found closer to home, in the City of Belleville. A

dead bluejay bird was found in Belleville last week, confirming the first report of the virus in Wayne County.

"This is an important reminder to take precautions against mosquitoes and mosquito bites," said Anahid Kulwicki, public health director for Wayne County. "The Wayne County Department of

Public Health is continuing its comprehensive efforts against West Nile Virus, including mosquito abatement and public education to prevent human infection."

Kulwicki stressed that the new program in the county to distribute mosquito larvicide to the 42 communities served by the public health department will be the biggest approach. The larvicide will be distributed to communities based on population and geographic size, he said.

"We are going to continue these aggressive efforts to protect the public health through the rest of the mosquito season," added Kulwicki.

Available funds

Wayne County has allocated \$200,000 to establish a Mosquito Abatement Program. Swallow said that Van Buren Township received \$4,222 of that share in which they have used to purchase mosquito dunk tanks.

In Northville Township, officials expect to spend about \$2,500 to keep down the mosquito population, although it should receive some financial help from the Oakland County West Nile Virus Fund. Northville, which is located in both Wayne and Oakland Counties, expects to receive a reimbursement of just under \$1,200 from Oakland County, which will begin the fund to help communities finance mosquito control plans. No funding is expected from Wayne County, said Gallogy.

Canton Township had money left over from last year to fund the program this year. Canton also received a grant from Wayne County.

Risks

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and/or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord), according to the Center of Disease Control (CDC). Symptoms include fever, headaches and body aches.

People can become infected with the virus from mosquitoes, but cannot get the virus from other humans or birds. People older than 50 have the highest risk of the West Nile disease.

"We are going to continue these aggressive efforts to protect the public health through the rest of the mosquito season."



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OPINION

Walk in their shoes

Our hearts go out to everyone involved in the tragedy that unfolded two weeks ago in Plymouth Township.

The events that led up to the fatal shooting of Robert VanBuren by Plymouth Township police will inevitably leave scars and have long lasting effects for those who were on the scene that day, those who helped ensure the safety of the children, VanBuren's family and the police officers who responded.

It's a situation in which no one would ever want to be involved and yet it's something that police officers could face on any day, at any moment. They never know when even the most routine call can turn violent, although it is always a possibility. We often take for granted the fact that they rarely have to make these kinds of decisions, but when they do, we're always the first ones to second-guess them.

That type of talk surfaced the day of the shooting and will doubtless continue throughout the investigation into the incident, through the lawsuit already filed by family members, and beyond.

Most likely, we will never know what happened in the darkened hallway in which the two officers struggled with VanBuren. Most of us will never know what we would do in that type of situation, either. We can speculate all we want; debate the different types of tactics we would have used if we were personally involved, because it's the easiest thing in the world to say 'They should have handled it differently.'

That kind of conclusion is impossible to make, though, particularly before the investigations are even complete. The officers involved clearly had to make some type of snap decision; they didn't know the status of the children and other innocents in the church; they only knew they were in a struggle with someone with an unknown motive and that other efforts to subdue him had failed.

It's easy to question, it's easy to point fingers and to assess blame. Before any of us do that, though, we should put ourselves in their place.

The right move to make

Anytime a municipal government makes a plan or takes some action, they're going to make somebody mad.

It's the law of averages, the simple fact that we are all so diverse that it's impossible to make everybody happy with a single act.

There may be few municipal officials who understand this simple truth better than the Westland City Council members who often hear negative comments even on the positive things they're trying to do.

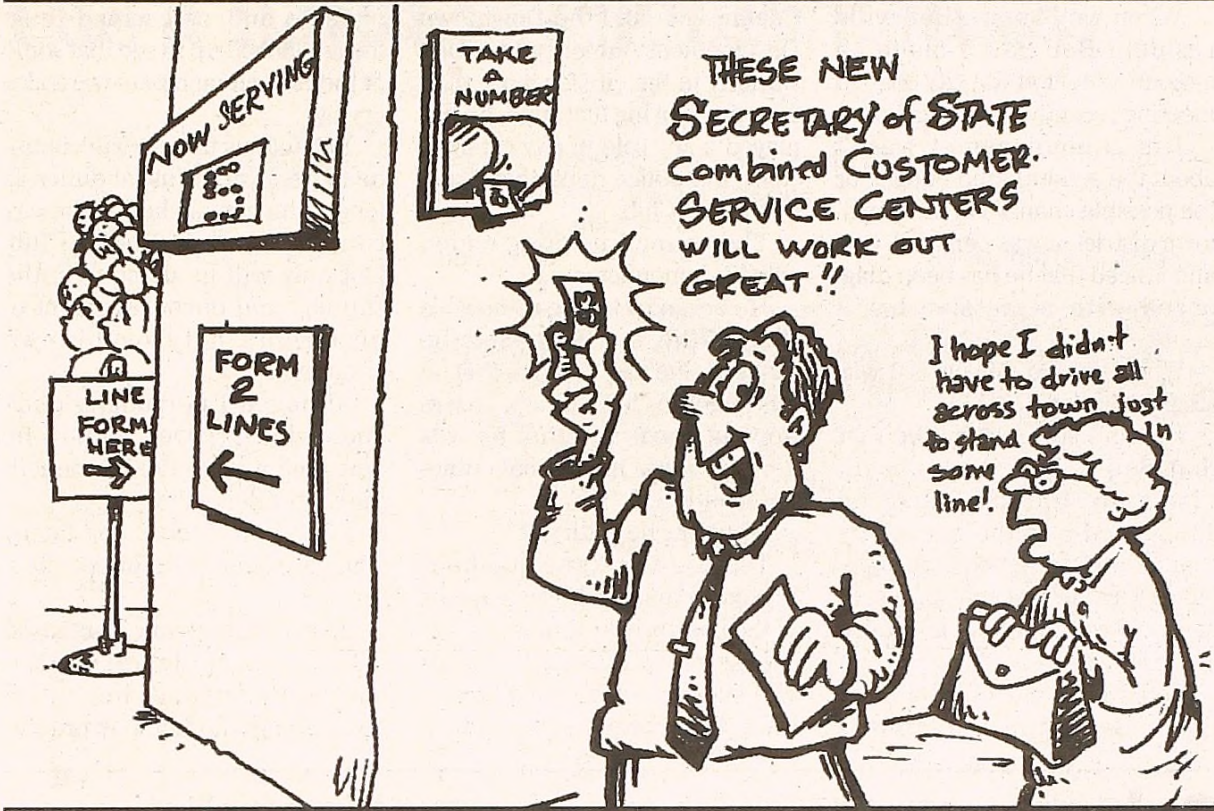
The most recent of which was the proposed move of the Rowe House, a historic home that dates back to 1836. Right now it's sitting near the department of public works yard on Marquette Street and the plan is to move it to the nearby historic village.

It should be a simple thing, and embraced by all the various groups that are interested in preserving the heritage of the community, but different factions have different ideas; some want to see work completed on the Octagon House, which is already at the village, before any attempt is made to move the older home. One group, the Westland Historic Village Park Finance Committee, even disbanded in disgust over the plan. We hope they reconsider.

As far as the plan to move the Rowe House now, rather than later, is concerned, it's the right thing for the city to do. It doesn't make sense to put a roof on it now and move it in a year or two because in all likelihood the work done on the home before it is moved will have to be repeated, after the move, and the city can't afford to be so cavalier with expenditures. The fact that the house won't last another year without the move and new roof also has to be considered.

Perhaps the real issue here is why the move hasn't taken place

See **House**, page 8



It's a labor of love, for now

Once again, the Wayne City Council postponed action on evaluations of the city manager and city attorney Tuesday night.

Two separate subcommittees had previously met to evaluate the performance of City Manager John Zech and City Attorney Dick Clark, and proposed a 3 percent cost of living increase for both of them, but when the issue has come to the council it's been tabled, twice. The first time by City Councilman Tom Kelly and Tuesday night by Mayor Al Haidous, after a question brought up before the meeting by Kelly.

Pay raises for city officials are always a tricky thing; they're apt to bring out suspicion and foster the age-old concept that everyone working in government makes too much money.

But I don't see the reason for the delay here, or the potential controversy. Sure, the two are well compensated, but look at what each brings to the city.

Zech has an encyclopedic knowledge of the city, past and present. He can tell you details of things that happened 15 years ago without opening up a drawer, checking a computer file or fiddling with a palm pilot. It's all in his head; he can't be stumped

for long. I think it shows that it's more than just a job for him. He knows so much because he listens, watches, pays attention and genuinely cares.

I first started to realize his value to the city during the big budget crunch of a year ago, when the city was forced to take an unprecedented mid-year budget reduction. It was something that hadn't happened before in the city, it wasn't caused at the local level, but rather by factors out of the control of city officials; reduced revenue from a number of sources. During that time he showed what I think is his strongest trait: the ability to calmly and logically walk people through difficult, emotional decisions. I left those meetings with a better understanding of the entire budget process.

He's well respected throughout the municipal community, too. In places like Plymouth, Northville, Belleville and beyond, city managers tip a hat to the work that John does here in Wayne. And they should. It'll be a sad day when he decides to move on or step down.

I have a similar professional affection for Dick Clark. He's often caused me to shake my head with a sense of wonder,

because I know a lot of attorneys, municipal and otherwise, and he does things that I've never seen other lawyers do.

I was nearly dumbstruck last year when he volunteered to forego any kind of salary increase during those tough budget times. Many in the city – including Zech – did, too, but to me that was different. I had always looked at the role of a city attorney as little more than a contractual obligation – a guy filling a seat because he was on retainer. And that's where I was wrong about Clark. He didn't want the raise then because he said he enjoyed working with the city and he knew times were tight.

He's done other things since then, and probably countless acts before I came around. He's the first to donate funds to many charitable efforts – the most recent of which is the ongoing attempt to generate money for a new nativity set. He's been on the scene of every volunteer effort I've been to, as well, and not just to stand around on the perimeter, and talk with all the other city officials that are

See **Raises**, page 8

Make time for your health

People often express amazement when they learn that I missed only two broadcasts in my 54-year career as a professional sportscaster, while also writing a couple of books, a weekly newspaper column and dozens of songs recorded by artists such as Mitch Ryder and B.J. Thomas.

They're always quick to ask how I did it, how I found the time. I didn't. I made the time. I still do. Though I retired last year, I'm still writing columns. I'm doing baseball vignettes for the Fox network. I speak to groups across the country. I'm a health and fitness advo-

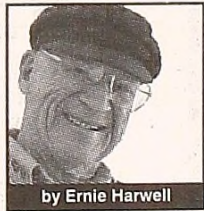
cate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Who knows? I might even write another book.

While time is important, good health is even more crucial. So I'm always on the lookout for ways to have more of both. There's really no ideal time to exercise. It's up to you to decide when to make time for exercise. And need I remind you; there's no time like the present.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the

Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

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Watching real grace under pressure

When well-known Belleville resident Bob Baker made an announcement at the city council meeting recently, I was shocked.

His announcement wasn't about the general fund budget, or the possible changes to the downtown district; it was personal. Bob announced that he has been diagnosed with a massive brain tumor.

When I heard this news, I was simply stunned.

I wasn't stunned by the fact that Bob said he had a brain tumor, or the fact that he announced it to the entire city council and audience that night, but it was the fact that Bob said he would continue with his duties in the city.

Bob, who is currently on both the Belleville Planning

Commission and the Downtown Development Authority, has been working in the city for more than 21 years. During that time, he has played a key role in city commissions, the police department and the Rotary Club.

The council meeting ended with his announcement.

He began by telling us how his wife, Millie, started to see the changes. She had told him that he was forgetting to do things, he was slowing down and that he was starting to lose his normal enthusiasm for life.

What was he getting at?

Then, just as those questions formed in my mind, Bob gave us all the heartbreaking news.

Like many others, I sat stiff with silence not knowing how to react. Tears began to well up in

my eyes and, as I wiped them away, I looked up to see that some of the council members were also crying.

Bob told us that he will continue to perform his usual duties as long as he can, including the city commissions and Rotary Club. Not only will he do so with the support and encouragement of his doctors, but from his own strong will.

Although I personally don't know him very well, I know he has done a great deal to benefit the City of Belleville.

I also have friends and family who have dealt with similar situations.

A dear friend was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 23. It spread throughout his entire body. Things did not look promis-

ing.

I kept asking myself: he's young, he's healthy, how could this have happened?

Then, after months of treatment his cancer went into remission.

Now, he is happy, healthy and almost entirely cancer free.

It was not just a miracle; it was his attitude.

He is one of the funniest people that I know, and without his upbeat, always enthusiastic attitude, I don't think that he would have made it through. I truly believe that with the right mindset, you can overcome almost anything.

A visit to the U of M Hospital told Bob that the tumor is inoperable and is spreading throughout his brain. If it "crosses over," it is

almost a certainty there will be no recovery.

He will now go through chemo and radiation therapy treatments. The doctors are optimistic they may be able to contain the tumor since the treatments have dramatically progressed in the last 5 years. They are also encouraging Bob to continue as many of his normal activities as he can.

Bob has said that he will.

I admire his decision to continue to serve the community by not resigning from his positions. I admire his passion for the job.

I also want to wish him the best.

My thoughts and prayers are out there for Bob, his family and his many friends.



King's Court
by Andrea King

Raises

FROM PAGE 7

either there to be seen or earn overtime. He's in there working. During the community build at Civitan Park he was slogging through the mud, helping out.

That kind of commitment, coupled with the fact that he hasn't had a raise in two years, makes a pay increase a no-brainer, at least to me. I mean, he's involved in so many charities and service groups in this community and others that the

money will probably go right back into the city in one way or another.

In many ways the two are indicative of how fortunate the city is with their department heads. Most could find a better-paying job elsewhere, maybe in a higher profile community. For one reason or another they stay here and I think it's because it's a great place to work. That only goes so far, though. If the city starts to skimp on things like cost of living increases, they may lose some of those community-minded folks.

House

FROM PAGE 7

already; the house has been on the current site for about 20 years, and the city has had ample time to plan a move back when the budget wasn't so tight.

There's little that can be done about that now, though, city officials have to take actions to correct it. Moving the house this year and re-roofing it before adverse weather sets in is the most prudent course of action left.

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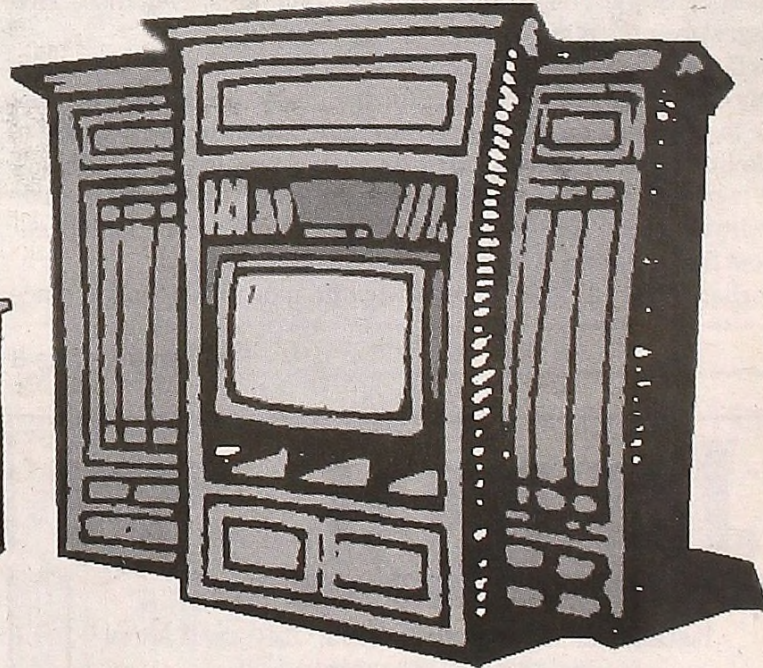
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On the wing

Local back yard named as a natural wildlife habitat

Scott Spielman
Editor

Butterflies dance among the brightly-colored flowers, pausing to rest on an orange blossom before springing into the air.

Nearby, water gurgles down a small slope to a deep pool where fish swim languidly and frogs occasionally jump. Bees gather nectar without disturbing any other inhabitants – both temporary and permanent – of the garden and flowers soak in the sun.

It sounds like a peaceful natural refuge, and it is, with one unique feature – it's in the heart of residential Westland.

The small sanctuary is found in the back yard of Brenda Dziedzic, a collection of specifically-selected plants and landscaped ponds that was recently designated a Backyard Wildlife Habitat site by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

"It's so peaceful back here, it's hard to believe it's in the middle of a subdivision," Dziedzic said. "Sometimes my husband comes outside to sit and just read a book and listen to the water."

The pond is actually the latest installment of an ongoing project in the Dziedzic's back yard. The project was first started by Brenda after the couple married,

about 3 years ago. She wanted to make a butterfly garden in the back of their small Westland lot.

"It didn't have anything then," she said. "It was just grass."

She started out with plenty of research, she said, hitting the Internet and the library to find out what attracts butterflies, and why. That's why everything in the backyard has a specific purpose, right down to the huge barrels near the garage that serve to collect and dispense rainwater – the only source of artificial irrigation she uses to keep her gardens and plants attractive and healthy.

Dziedzic said she learned that specific plants attract specific types of butterflies; some, like nectar plants, are used for food, some, called host plants, to nest. There are carrot, parsley and dill plants which attract the Eastern Black Swallow Tail; wild lupine plants – the only known plant to attract the Karner Blue; false net-tles, which bring in the Red Admirals, spice bushes for other species of swallow tails and Hollyhocks for the Painted Ladies, to name a few.

She has grown the plants in phases, and the results have been astounding, she said. Slowly, the butterflies began to appear in the garden. Now, on a sunny day, the back yard is filled with the color-

ful insects.

"I don't know how they know about it, but they just call to the yard," she said. "It's cool."

The butterfly garden is only one aspect of the sanctuary, albeit the largest one. There is also the fishpond, which has attracted bullfrogs – they named the pair Fred and Ethel, although Fred met a messy end at the paws of a neighboring cat – and even a small woodpile to offer shelter for caterpillars during the winter.

Dziedzic, a telecommunications specialist during the day, said she works hard to ensure the butterflies have a chance to hatch and survive in a world where there is increasingly less space for them. On off days and in evenings, she'll hunt through the various plants, looking for the tiny seeds that will one day hatch caterpillars that will eventually transform themselves into living works of art.

She'll transplant the seeds – and usually a portion of the host plant, as well – inside her home where they can hatch and mature without threat from predators.

"If you don't get them really fast, there's a good chance they won't survive," she said.

She keeps them in indoor

aquariums as they go through the first two phases of their lives – from caterpillars to chrysalis – and until they're healthy enough to fly off on their own. It takes some time, even after they

emerge from their cocoons, she said. When they first come out, their bodies are much larger than their wings. They have to

See **Butterflies**, page 10



Chrysalis, from the Greek word meaning 'gold,' describes the rim of the cocoon formed by caterpillars that hatch into Monarch butterflies. Brenda Dziedzic makes sure they have a safe place to do that.

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		Eighth Grade	2 Spaces Available

* Students from outside the District must qualify for entry into the Gifted and Talented program by meeting the same criteria that is applied to residents of the Van Buren Public Schools District.

Open registration for the limited spaces is August 2 – August 20. Open registration for Kindergarten only is until October 21. If you have questions about Van Buren Public Schools, please call (734) 697-9123, ext. 209 or visit our web site at www.resa.net/vanburen.

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Everything has a specific purpose in the garden of Brenda Dziedzic of Westland (above), from the plants to the rain barrels and the small woodpile.

Butterflies

FROM PAGE 9

hang upside down, and pump fluid into the wings in a process she calls drip-drying. As the wings get larger and stronger, the body gets smaller. Soon they are ready for flight.

Dziedzic said she documents the process and wants to develop a documentary to help other people understand the process and develop butterfly gardens in their own back yards.

"I just try to do my part to help out the little things," she said.

She's already done that. She said she's hatched more than 215 Monarch butterflies since she started and has helped some of her friends start their own gardens.

"So much of their habitat has been destroyed by strip malls and condominiums," she said. "We need to get back to nature. When I was a child we saw lots and lots of butterflies. Now you hardly see any. There are fewer and fewer of them. It's because people won't want to do the 'natural thing' in their own back yards."



With the addition of a pond in her back yard, Brenda Dziedzic has everything to have a certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JULY 12, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Pro Tem Debbie Romak.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.
Excused: Randolph Gear, Mayor Pro Tem (Military Duty).
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-314

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held July 6, 2004 with corrections to Resolution 04-313.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. No Petitioners

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Miller to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-315

5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and D.P.W. Director, Carl Brooks and award Bid #04/05-02 Contractual Services - Electrical Maintenance to the only bidder, Youtsey Electric.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-316

5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and D.P.W. Director, Carl Brooks and award Bid # 0405-05 Sign Posts to the only bidder, Unistrut Detroit Service Company, at a total bid price of \$5,923.70.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-317

6A1. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 04/05-01, introduced at the Council meeting held July 28, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-318

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 04-13 in the grand total amount of One Million, One Hundred Ninety Five Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty Three Dollars and Seventy Five Cents (1,195,853.75).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain: Crova.
Motion Carried.

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held July 12, 2004

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: August 5, 2004

THE SCENE

Manchurian is Candidate for film honors

How do you remake a movie many may consider to be the greatest political thriller ever made?

You stuff it with an all-star cast, enlist a top-notch director and modernize the political battlefield to fit today's society. That's what Paramount Pictures did with the remake of John Frankenheimer's 1962 masterpiece *The Manchurian Candidate* starring Frank Sinatra and Angela Lansbury. The new version is packed with A-listers such as Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep, Liev Schreiber and Jon Voight and directed by Jonathan Demme (*Truth About Charlie*, *Beloved*, *Philadelphia*, *Silence of the Lambs*).

The storyline is quite different, though. It no longer revolves around Communist China and Korea as did the original, but rather a corporation called Manchurian Global.

With the Gulf War looming, 1991 Kuwait is the backdrop for the opening scene as a platoon led by Army Major Ben Marco (Washington) tries to make their way through the desert only to be ambushed. Reports of the incident win Sgt. Raymond Shaw (Schreiber) the Medal of Honor as he single-handedly saved the platoon with only two casualties. Years later, Marco, still a soldier, recounts the events of that night to Boy Scout troops and elementary classes while Shaw is primed for a promising career in politics.

Marco doesn't sleep at night fearing the dreams that plague him. Then a member of the platoon resurfaces and not only expresses concerns about having dreams but also questions what really happened the night of the ambush.

As Marco's dream-like memories become more sinister, he is determined to discover the truth of what happened in the desert. As memories continue to flood back, he realizes that something more terrible may have happened to the two soldiers that died in Kuwait and that Shaw may not be the war hero he is made out to be.

Things begin to veer out of control once Shaw is nominated as the vice-presidential candidate under the close control of his controversial mother Eleanor Prentiss Shaw (Streep). Marco grows more suspicious of Manchurian Global as more

clues unravel. However, his behavior grows more erratic and the military, the FBI and Shaw's security begin to question his sanity.

Marco enlists the help of



Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Marco enlists the help of rogue scientist Richard Delp (Bruno Ganz) to figure out the

mysterious probe that he digs from underneath his own skin. He also gains the trust of Senator Thomas Jordan, who could potentially have the power to bring down Manchurian Global.

With time running out on Election Day, Marco races to discover the truth and put a stop to the corporation funding a presidential campaign but also controlling it through brainwashing, mind control and murder. But a final twist will leave audiences wondering who the real hero is.

Manchurian Candidate is, without a doubt, wonderfully acted and the edgy direction of Demme adds a quicker pace to a remake that veers off the path of the original.

The modern version doesn't match up with the original but it doesn't fall short either—it is a well-made and entertaining film on its own.



Denzel Washington as Major Ben Marco and Liev Schreiber as Raymond Shaw

Village is 'frightfully' bad film

With the opening of writer-director M. Night Shyamalan's highly anticipated fourth movie, *The Village*, it appears the 'gotcha' king has lost his touch.

Although the film was technically and visually beautiful, *The Village* falls short of all of Shyamalan's previous thrillers; *The Sixth Sense*, *Unbreakable* and *Signs*. In 1999, Shyamalan left audiences stunned and bewildered with the unexpected twist at the end of *The Sixth Sense*, but *The Village* borders on absurd and will leave audiences puzzled, alright, but not in the way Shyamalan has managed previously.

Set in a 19th-century rural northeastern community, the

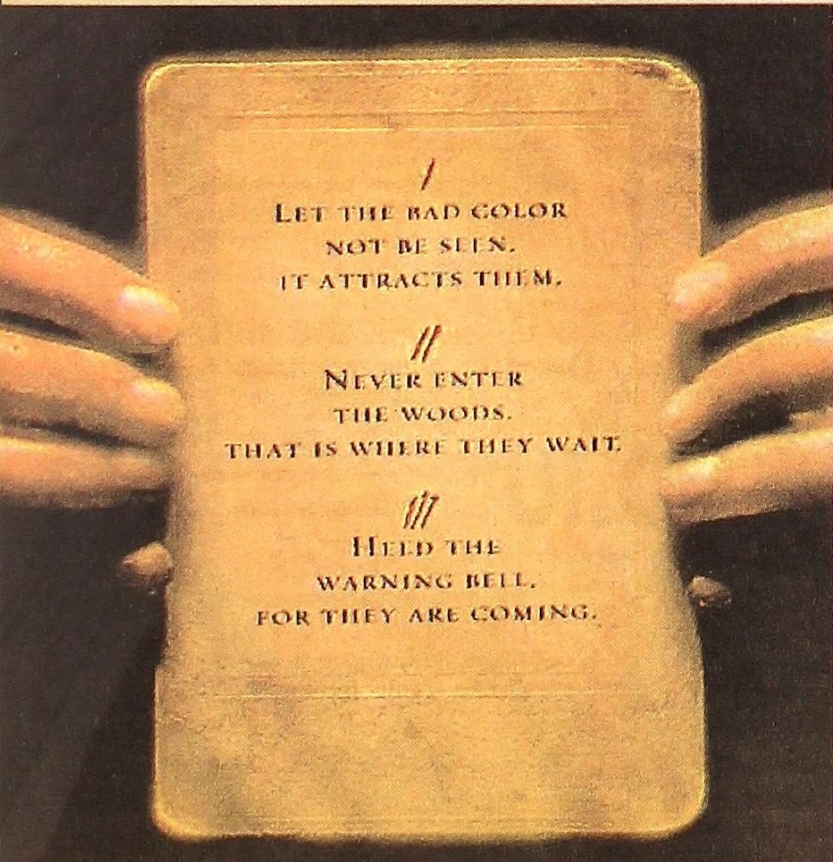
film takes on a *Wuthering Heights* meets Greenfield Village field trip feel, where a picture-perfect village is isolated in a valley surrounded by deep woods. There, villagers live off the land and livestock, much as you would expect. Beside the day-to-day chores, young people dance and play, daughters talk with fathers and boys fall in love all in the simple confines of the village.

Village elders, led by Edward Walker (William Hurt) run the community in a utopian manner in an attempt to shield residents from the evil that lies in the bigger towns outside of the valley. The close-knit community lives in fear of the race of creatures

that inhabit the woods beyond the village, known to the residents as "Those We Don't Speak Of." The fear is so paralyzing that none dare to venture beyond the borders of the community and into the woods. The elders ease the fear by reinforcing the fact that a truce exists between the two species that depends on neither side breaching the borders.

Despite the elders' advice, Lucius Hunt (Joaquin Phoenix), spurred by an unnecessary death within the community, itches to step beyond the boundaries in an attempt to retrieve medical supplies that would prevent

See *Village*, page 12



THE SCENE

Village

FROM PAGE 11

such deaths. Lucius' mother Alice Hunt (Sigourney Weaver) also advises him to stay home and resist the greed and desires that exists in the towns.

The innocence of the community is threatened when both Lucius and Noah (Adrien Brody) enter the woods, a move that ends the uneasy truce between the villagers and the creatures and sends the community into turmoil.

A love triangle emerges with the awkwardly quiet Lucius, the strong-willed yet blind Ivy Walker (Bryce Dallas Howard) and the mentally handicapped Noah sets up the first plot twist, but nothing too revealing or too exciting. Ivy can only choose one and her decision sends her down a dark road where terrifying truths are revealed.

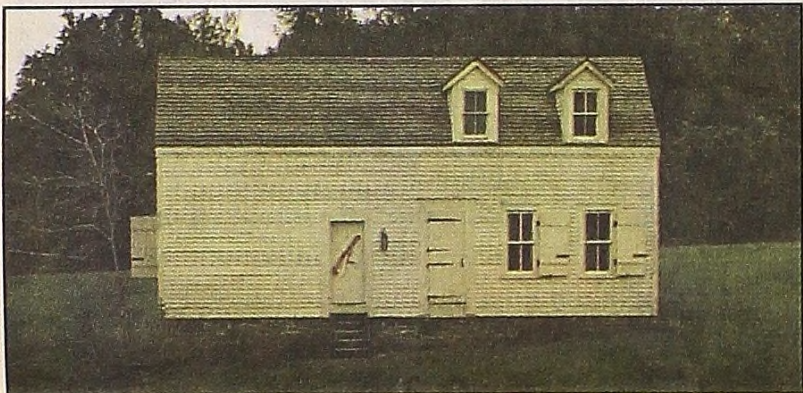
Once the truth about the monsters in the woods is exposed, the first step on long road of absurdi-

ty, the plot weakens even further and the twist fizzles leaving audiences grasping for answers, shaking their heads in disbelief and rolling their eyes at the ridiculous outcome.

Although the film is superbly cast and acted with the likes of Phoenix, Hurt Weaver and Brody and newcomer Howard, the daughter of actor-director Ron Howard who performs brilliantly, *The Village* still falls short of expectations set forth by Shyamalan's precursors.

In defense of Shyamalan, it is unfair for audiences to expect a beguiling twist or surprise ending in every one of his films. However, in defense of the audiences shelling out \$9 apiece to see his films, he should stop trying. There's nothing wrong with giving up the big twist for a straight hit.

Taking a tip from the villagers who refer to the creatures as "Those We Don't Speak Of," audiences should refer to *The Village* as "The Movie We Shouldn't Go See."



Fanatic

Local woman competes for 'film title'

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Inkster resident and self-proclaimed movie buff Kimberly Greene had a chance to show off her vast film knowledge last week as a contestant on the "Ultimate Film Fanatic," a game show on the Independent Film Network.

Greene, 34, competed against four other area resi-

dents in a special Detroit-themed show from Los Angeles. The competition is part of a game show that, through answering some useless but tough movie questions, will eliminate the pool of contestants to one "film fanatic." Big Rapids native and *Film Threat* editor Chris Gore hosted the show.

Though Greene did not make it to the final round, she

said she had a lot of fun playing the game and being the first Inkster resident to make it onto a reality television series. The show was shown nationally on Friday, July 23, on the IFC (Independent Film Channel).

"I didn't win the competition, but I had a lot of fun," said Greene, a security guard. "It was especially nice to be able to

See Film, page 13



Kimberly Greene was flown out to Los Angeles for to appear on the "Ultimate Film Fanatic" game show on the Independent Film Channel. Here, she appears with other competitors from Michigan

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THE SCENE

Skinny Dip

Author's latest will tickle funny bones

Imagine a murderous, philanthropic doctor of marine biology and a drug-addicted, giant sim-
pleton as arguments for the con-
servation of one of the few
remaining areas of true wildlife
in the world.

Carl Hiaasen has done just
that, hilariously and convincingly,
in *Skinny Dip*.

Hiaasen's declared passion is
to save his native Florida from
the onslaught of developers ruin-
ing the environment and threat-
ening the ecological balance in
the Everglades. He's expounded
on this theme in each of his
exceptionally successful, and
equally comic, novels. For-
tunately for readers, his con-
siderable humor and skewed
view of his fellow humans are
equal to the task of entertaining
while explaining.

It is that humor and cast of
extremely weird and misan-
thropic characters that pervade
every Hiaasen novel and earned
him the legion of fans who snap
up his books faster than one of
his hungry 'gators chasing a wan-
dering Pekinese.

This time the fun begins when
his heroine, Joey Perrone, is
unceremoniously tossed over-
board while on an anniversary
cruise with her husband, Dr.
Charles Perrone. Chaz to his

Book Review
Skinny Dip
Carl Hiaasen

friends, not that he has any.

Joey, named by her deceased
casino-owning parents for Joey
Heatherton, just happens to have
been a championship swimmer
prior to her marriage—she man-
ages to survive the attempt on
her life by clinging to a bale of
Jamaican marijuana floating in
the Atlantic.

While her days in the ocean
are harrowing, she escapes a
watery grave, contrary to what
Chaz tells the police and every-
one else who will listen, includ-
ing his long-time mistress. Joey
only wants to know one thing:
Why?

And when she's rescued by a
six-time divorced former cop
who has taken up the life of a
hermit on a private island, along
with his extremely stupid but
loveable Doberman, she has only
one goal: Find out why and get
even.

Her husband is probably the
only marine biologist who doesn't
know which way the Gulf Stream
runs—but he knows a great con
when he's found one. And doc-
toring water samples for a major

food producer is the best scam
he's found yet. As long as the
water samples don't reveal the
level of phosphates being used in
the fertilizers Red Hammernut is
using to grow tons of tomatoes,
Chaz and Red have a great deal
going.

But even Red knows how stu-
pid Chaz is, so he sends "Tool", a
huge, hairy man with a bullet
stuck in an extremely personal
and sensitive part of his anatomy,
to guard the bereaved husband
when Joey's surreptitious visits to
her homicidal mate begin to
spook him.

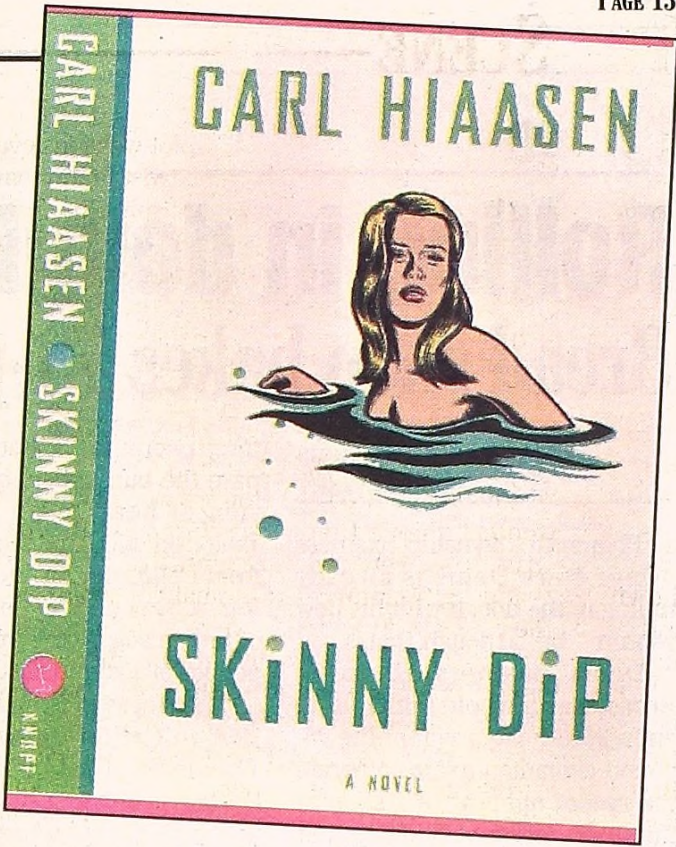
Tool is addicted to pain-killers
administered through skin patch-
es which he steals off the backs of
unsuspecting nursing home
patients, but that doesn't limit his
efficiency as a bodyguard—well,
not usually. But he doesn't like
Chaz very much and his parts
really hurt and the patches make
him very, very drowsy.

This cast of warped individu-
als is joined by several others,
equally as outrageous, including
the snake-loving police detective
assigned to find out what hap-
pened to Joey. He needs to solve
her death quickly because he's
leaving sunny Florida to take a
job back up north. But he needs
to find his two missing pythons,
first. And he may have to use his

entire
savings
to reim-
burse
the
senior
citizens
in his
apart-
ment
com-
plex for
the
small
pets
the
missing
snakes
are apparently
devouring.

Hiaasen gets his message of
conservation and preservation of
the natural wonders of Florida
delivered in fine style and with
great good humor. While his
message may seem a bit heavy
handed, his wit and sense of the
absurd balance his obvious devo-
tion to preserving the River of
Grass.

His characters, good and bad,
are laugh-out-loud funny. While
this may not be Hiaasen's best
work, the humor not as dark as
Skin Tight or the characters as
bizarre as *Double Whammy* or
Tourist Season (which are not to
be missed feats of writing), it is an
exceptionally entertaining and
informative read.



The inclusion of one of
Hiaasen's most bizarre charac-
ters ever, from his former books,
without much explanation or
development is a bit jarring,
inexplicable and beyond the will-
ing suspension of disbelief. Even
readers who know the full back-
ground and history of this guy
will feel somewhat uncomfort-
able finding him here with no
explanation or detail.

No matter, though, Hiaasen
fans will have *Skinny Dip* on the
bestseller list within a week, and
deservedly so. Maybe not his
best, but still better than most.

Highly recommended.

Film

FROM PAGE 12

escape to the west coast in the winter." Greene
received an all-expenses paid trip to Los Angeles to
compete on the game show.

The "Ultimate Film Fanatic" is an eight-part
series that is airing on the IFC Channel throughout
the summer, according to the *Film Threat* web site.
Once a film king or queen is crowned, he or she will
have the chance to determine an entire evening of
programming and serve as the host for the night.

The Michigan segments were filmed in February,
Greene said. She added that she applied for the con-
test at an on-line movie lovers' site and auditioned
at the Phoenix Theater in Farmington Hills. Players
were chosen after the explained to judges why they
thought they were the ultimate film fanatic.

Film Threat and IFC personnel organized con-
testant searches in New York, Los Angeles,
Philadelphia, Denver, Atlanta, and Detroit. The
contest was judged by *Shaft* star Richard
Roundtree, *Serial Mom* and *Crybaby* star Tracey
Lords and actor Jason Mewes of *Jay and Silent Bob*
Strike Back and *Clerks* fame.

"As an obsessed film fanatic myself, I can't wait to
meet my fellow maniacs and put them to the test to
see if they measure up," said Gore in a statement.
"With so many film lovers out there, you can be sure
that our 'Ultimate Film Fanatic' will be just that—a
person obsessed with films and everything about
them."

Four other Michigan residents competed against
Greene. Michael Felsher of Rochester Hills, Eve
Dietrich and Michael Lourie of Royal Oak and
Julian Boyance of Southfield. Felsher won the
round of competition and will take on winners from
other cities.

So what's Greene's all-time favorite movie?
"That's hard to say," she said. "I think it might be
Super Cop or *Ginger Snaps 2*."

Those who didn't catch Greene in action the first
time will get a second chance when the IFC airs a
"Ultimate Film Fanatic" marathon beginning at 6
a.m. on Labor Day.

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BUSINESS

Rolling in dough Bread shop bakes 78-pound sweet roll

John Counts
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township business owner Mark Denis is already rolling in the dough with his new venture—bread dough, that is.

Denis' business, House of Bread, has a whole bunch of it, enough to bake a whopping 78-pound cinnamon roll to celebrate the recent opening of a shop at the intersection of Sheldon and Five Mile roads. They dropped the bun on Saturday, when area sweet lovers had the opportunity to enjoy a taste of the huge roll.

According to franchise founder Shelia McCann, the roll will be a world record, something Denis will hopefully have confirmed through the people at Guinness, who tally records like these—amongst other things. He said he is having people from the health department come out and witness the unveiling of the rotund roll just to make it official.

If all goes well, Denis and House of Bread can say they are the proud manufacturer of the world's biggest bun—one that may even give J. Lo a run for her money.

According to Denis, it took

three people about 4 hours to prepare the bun under the supervision of head baker Shannon Jablonski. McCann even came in from California for the occasion. It took 50 pounds of flour, 30 cups of brown sugar cinnamon and 26 pounds of water to make the treat.

The House of Bread started in 1996 in California by McCann. This is the first chain east of Dallas, according to Denis. He was working in automotive supply at Yazaki in Canton Township when, 2 years ago, he decided he wanted to try something else.

"I was looking to do something completely different," he said.

He said he chose a bakery because it was something he enjoyed doing at home.

"My wife will kill me on this, but I was always the one baking on the weekends, making muffins and French toast. I always had kind of a knack for it," he said.

He researched different franchise opportunities, and finally decided on the House of Bread after he spent some time at a conference in California with McCann.

Denis' wife, Cindy, was skeptical in the beginning, he said.

"She didn't think I was seri-

ous," he said.

He said neither can really figure out when it did become serious, but now, with the store open for the past two months, she is a believer.

"She is fully supportive of it," he said.

There is a huge variety of breads and rolls on the menu, Denis said, but that's not the only reason people should come in. He said he's tried to create a relaxing atmosphere, including nostalgic Detroit décor like memorabilia from the Tigers 1984 World Series win.

He said the ambience of the bread shop is meant to transport people back to "times when things were a little more laid back."

And less carb crazy.

Just the name of the store seems enough to make those trying to lose weight on low-carb diets like the Atkins or the South Beach shudder.

"That certainly was a consideration," Denis said.

But while the House of Bread tries to have an old-fashioned feel, the owners are also with the times. They list all nutritional information on the menus. And



Mark Denis and his staff spent 4 hours preparing the dough for the 78-pound sweet roll they baked to mark the grand opening of House of Bread in Plymouth last Saturday.

for the carb-conscious, they offer a bread on Mondays and Wednesdays made with soy flour instead of regular flour.

"It's been really well-received," Denis said.

For those with a more reckless appetite, the Bread Shop offers

everything from lemon breads to ethnic breads.

He said gradually, everything is coming together. Since the April opening, things have slowly evolved.

But now, he said, "We're going full force."



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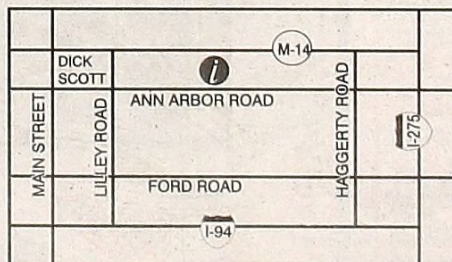
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BUSINESS



New owner Diana Wiljanen is preparing for the grand opening of her new salon in Old Village in Plymouth. With 20 years of hair styling experience, the new owner is realizing her dream with the completely remodeled salon on Starkweather Street. She will be joined by several stylists and colorists familiar to area clients.

Cutting edge Salon brings new look to Plymouth Old Village

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

When thinking of Old Village in Plymouth, 'edgy' doesn't come to mind—unless you're Diana Wiljanen.

Wiljanen is gearing up for the grand opening of Salon Inspire, a full service salon located at 603 Starkweather. The completely remodeled building formerly housed Salon Trio until Wiljanen decided Old Village needed something new.

"Owning my own salon has always been my dream," the 20-year veteran of the business said. "I love Plymouth. It's a great, fun town but it was lacking a real edgy, hip, beautiful salon."

What was once old is now new. 'Inspire' is exactly what Wiljanen wanted. The warm colors, burgundy and cream, add to the relaxed atmosphere. Crown molding and decorative mirrors adorn the walls to give the space a classic feel while the modern client chairs and furniture give the salon a sleek sense.

In other words it's cool. It's hip, even a little edgy.

Wiljanen, a native of Livonia and alumni of Stevenson High School, graduated from Virginia Farrell Cosmetology School and started cutting locks at JC Penny in

12 Oaks Mall. She was there for 5 years before moving on to Jacobson's where she spent another 5 years. She left the mall scene behind and moved to Cutting Quarters in downtown Plymouth where she worked for a decade. Now, she has a place to call her own.

Not everything in the salon is new, though. Patrons of the old Salon Trio will be delighted to know that Wiljanen has retained several employees.

Jacinda Burdziak, one of the owners of Trio for 9 years, left for another salon in Northville, after the sale of Trio—she then moved to a Livonia salon. But after a year

and a half of not permanently settling, Burdziak joined the Salon Inspire team, along with Melissa Montagano, a colorist and also a previous owner of Trio.

Sheri Ciccirelli, Tammy Cuppelli, both colorists, and Tina Taylor, a stylist, all are at Salon Inspire. Allyn Wolcott, a stylist and colorist, is also new to the team.

"All of the hairstylists and colorists are very educated," she said. "All of us take weekly classes in cutting or coloring."

Salon Inspire will host a grand opening celebration from 6-10 p.m. Aug. 21. For more information about the salon and business hours call 734-927-2600.

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Paint a picture of celebration every day

Graduation time, the successful completion of a challenge accepted. If I were asked to speak at commencement, what would I say?

Let's see:

Treat each day like it's a blank canvas and promise to paint a new picture daily.

Recognize that negative old pictures (learned behavior) steal your freedom and happiness. Understand that resistance to the natural rhythm of the universe brings about resentment.

Know that when you have food and shelter for the day, your needs are met. Understand that your "wants" will get you in trouble, unless you command your "will" to embrace humility—for humility is teachability.

Reject the false belief that you can control others. Accept the reality, that you control only you.

Practice honesty. When you are honestly true to yourself, without rationalization, you have created the remarkable gift of knowing there are no dark secrets to be exposed. It's the gift of never having to fear or worry about discovery. That brings inner peace.

Do not forget that when you're stressed, upset, angry, look first to fear as the driving force behind discontent. Then remember, fear most of the time is False Evidence Appearing Real, and answer fear with faith. If you live in today, fears of

tomorrow, regrets of yesterday, will not steal today's happiness.

You have the power choice. Know that, believe that, and use that. When self-pity attacks, choose to believe that what is happening is happening for your good. Do that and magic happens.

When you're filled with the poor me's, it doesn't take long to move to the next stage, as you angrily demand to know, "Why me?" Next, comes resentment—re-feeling the perceived wrong or hurt. And, before you realize it, you're back restarting the cycle like a dog chasing its tail.

When stressed out, anxious, unhappy, and fearful—choose to think differently and paint a new powerful picture.

Acceptance is the key to happiness. Remember that.

My old picture taught me I must be perfect, and it took 37 years to realize there's nothing perfect on God's green earth. When I accept that, all my anger, frustration, impatience transform into peace of mind. Believe it, and you will feel it.

Resisting acceptance, doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, is indeed the true definition of insanity.

Know that surrender by acceptance is not failure, is not shameful. Surrender of old pictures to new ways of thinking that bring happiness, is indeed victory.

Practice daily not allowing others to

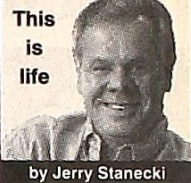
live in your life rent-free. Accept and realize that when you are unhappy, simply look in the mirror and you'll see the problem. Only you feel your feelings. Only you can change those feelings.

Awake each day with genuine gratitude, for your first breath and, yes, the hard times, too. When the attitude is gratitude, inner peace, feeling safe and happiness follow.

When the world gets too heavy, life too exhausting, surrender it all. Be happy, rather than right.

And, if all else fails, I want you to remember the extraordinary and wonderful philosophy of Chuckles the clown from the *Mary Tyler Moore Show*.

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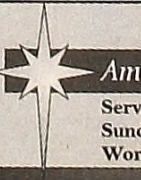
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59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale, pursuant to State Law, a sale will be held on August 24, 2004 @ 1:00 PM on the following units: B31= Christopher Zamora: Computers, Stove, Vacuum, Golf Clubs, Boxes J13= Bruce McDermott: Copy Machine, Furniture, Tools, Boxes J40= Daniel Cottrell: Yamaha Wave Runner, Triton Trailer, Weights, Bed, Boxes I3= Kimberly Wright-Windom: Boxes, furniture, steamer, stereo, picture frames America's Budget Storage 40671 Joy Rd Canton, MI 48187

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On August 3, 2004 the Westland Police

Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

- 1990 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck-Blue 1FTEF15N3LLA28022
- 1992 Chrysler New Yorker 4 Door-Tan 1C3XC66R9ND724756
- 1991 Toyota Camry 4 Door-Blue 4T1SV21E2MU321290
- 1988 Ford Mustang 2 Door-White 1FABP28FXDF110684
- 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity 4 Door-Gray 1G1AW51W4K6126602
- 1985 Chevrolet S-10 Pickup Truck-Blue 1GCCT14B0F2154243
- 1987 Dodge Ram Pickup Truck-Red 1B7FD04TXHS430508

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00a.m. at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

- 1988 Chevrolet Cavalier 4 Door-Blue 1G1JC5115J143238
- 1990 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck-Black 1FTEF15Y5LLA91990
- 1997 Saturn SL2 4 Door-Green 1G8ZK5272VZ105158

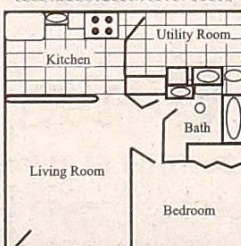
- 1992 Suzuki GSXR 600 Motorcycle-Blue JS1GN75A7N2100564
- 1989 Dodge Dakota Pickup Truck-Blue 1B7GG26X5KS091140
- 1996 Jeep Cherokee 4 Door-Gray 1J4EZ58SXTC109108
- 1992 Chevrolet S-10 Pickup Truck-Red 1GCCS19Z2N8224166
- 1999 Buick Regal 4 Door-Brown 2G4WB52K2X1631505

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

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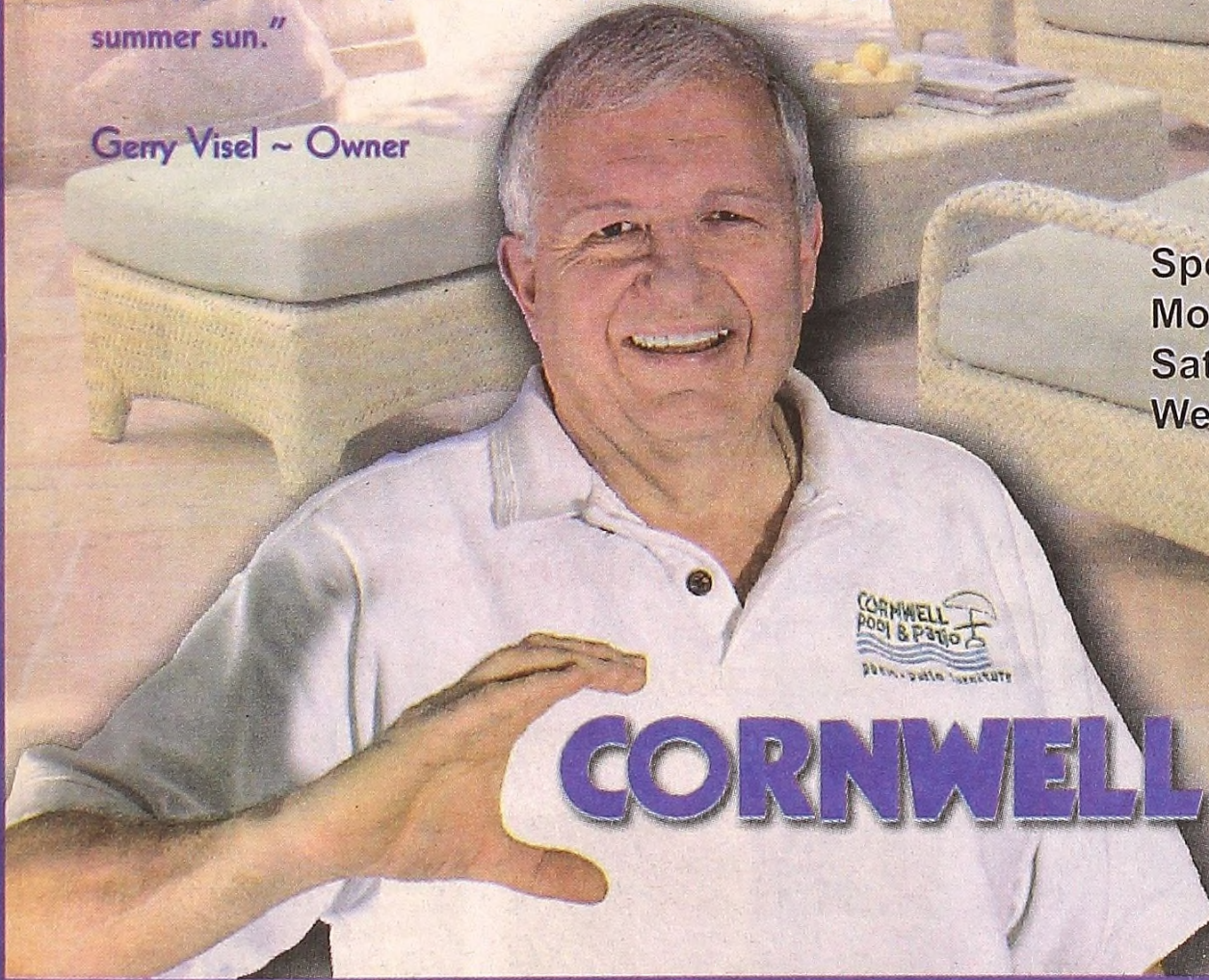
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